

These are glimpses of beautiful surrender that one woman shared from her notes sheet.

Finding my daughter is not the answer. My kids' belief is not the answer.
My GOD is the answer- the ONLY answer to the emptiness in my life.
Marriage is not it, a man is not it, not even myself –
JUST JESUS

Don't we miss His moving in our lives? Even if I think I deserve a better job- is that what God wants for me? How does that prove His plan for me?

So where does this leave me?
Do I live like a Christian? Am I real?
Because I don't think I am good enough to be anything to Christ -
That's the point! It's not me - JUST JESUS

I was given some news last evening about one of my husband's "friends". I acted as one of Job's friends did. My attitude was cold and my feeling was that this person deserved what happened to her. This morning the Lord deeply convicted me about my attitude, and called me to pray for her.

I am struggling with hatred toward these women and bitterness toward them and my husband. It is keeping me from the walk that I desire with God. I desperately seek your prayers for me in this matter. I know that I cannot forgive on my own.

I messaged you a few weeks ago about my issue with my husband's "friend", and feeling like one of Job's judgmental friends. Most of the ladies knew the background information on the situation. In a nutshell, my husband and I separated several months ago because of several counts of infidelity on his part.

Since sending the message out, I have been praying for both women my husband had affairs with. I'm finding it harder to hate and judge them the more I pray for them. I have not come to the point where I can totally forgive them yet, but to have the HATE for them gone, is a huge weight off my heart. I don't know if this is a "Job" story, but working through the study has definitely done a work in my life, and my mind was drawn to the study when God spoke to me about my severe judgment of this woman.

Not long before I started the study on Job, my life was turned upside down, and there were days I really didn't want to go on. It's not that I wanted to kill myself, I just didn't really want to "live". My marriage was falling apart, and I had asked my husband for a separation due to his infidelity. It was all I could do most days to just survive and take care of my children.

Thanks to loving support of a caring and wise pastor, and some wonderful and godly, prayer-warrior friends, I was able to crawl from the hole, and begin to live...for me and my children.

As I began to work through the story, I began to look at my life in a different way. Not only could I see that things were not as bad as they could be, but also that no matter what God allowed in my life, He was always there right beside me...carrying me when I could not go on! Even when I "felt" alone, I could be assured that He was there! What a blessing, and a relief!

My real "Job story" hit me pretty hard, though, just a few weeks ago. My husband and I were talking one evening, and he brought up some information about one of his "friends". My response was cold and uncaring, and in my mind, I was thinking that she got exactly what she deserved...punishment for her sins. The next day I was driving

across town and a wave of guilt flooded my soul. I had to pull over and cry...and pray for forgiveness. I had been acting JUST like Job's friends. I messaged some of those prayer-warrior friends to pray for me as I struggled with my feelings of hate and guilt.

"I am struggling with hatred toward these women and bitterness toward them and my husband. It is keeping me from the walk that I desire with God. I desperately seek your prayers for me in this matter. I know that I cannot forgive on my own."

Since then, I have begun to pray for the two women my husband had been seeing, and much of the hate, and the burden I felt has been lifted from my heart. That is not to say that my "holier-than-them" attitude doesn't creep in on a nearly every day basis, but when it does, I pray for them.

It is true that it is hard to hate someone you are praying for. I am still struggling with forgiveness, but I know that with continued prayer, someday that will come as well. I thank God that He is there to comfort me whatever happens...and that everything works for the good of those who serve Him.

Part of my story is a path of bitterness. God has released me from lots of it, but I still have a tendency to have that as my first response to situations. I can quickly get caught in a snare of bitterness before I even see it coming.

That is also true in my relationship with God, so part of the path out of bitterness is to be honest with Him about my anger, my disappointment, and my fear before it has a chance to turn to bitterness.

I have tried to copy the heart of David and his honesty before the Lord. David starts many psalms with his complaint but ends up with his heart turned toward the Lord in praise. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I need to be honest before the Lord bringing Him my complaints, fears, despair, and then let the truth of Who He is pour over me.

Job has been a great reminder that God's ways are different than mine, that I don't have the whole picture or the perspective that He does, and that God is seriously in control of everything - just look at the intricacies in nature!

He is totally worthy of my complete trust. I can rest in Him. His perfect love casts out all of my fears.